

a dump leach.

20. (Amended) A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the ore or concentrate contains a metal selected from the group consisting of:

- B1
- a base metal,
 - a precious metal, and
 - a platinum group metal.

B2 24. (Amended) A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the grind or crush size is greater than P_{80} 90 μm .

25. (Amended) A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the mixed bacterial culture comprises at least two of *Sulfobacillus thermosulfidooxidans*, *Thiobacillus caldus*, and *Thiobacillus ferrooxidans*.

26. (Amended) A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the process of adaptation comprises the addition of both a sample of the ore or concentrate and the bacterial culture to a leach vessel, and leaching a resulting adaptation slurry until a level of a targeted metal reporting to solution either reaches 100% or reaches a plateau.

27. (Amended) A bacterial culture for use in the bacterial oxidation of sulphide ores and concentrates, characterised in that the bacterial culture is not indigenous to the ore or concentrate to be oxidised, the bacterial culture being able to oxidise the ores or concentrates at grind or crush sizes equal to or greater than P_{80} 75 μm across a range of leach temperatures of about 40 to 65 °C, and at a pH of between about 0.5 to 3.0.

28. (Amended) A bacterial culture according to claim 27, characterised in that the culture comprises at least two of *Sulfobacillus thermosulfidooxidans*, *Thiobacillus caldus*, and *Thiobacillus ferrooxidans*.

29. (Amended) A bacterial culture according to claim 27, characterised in that the ore or concentrate is a chalcopyrite mineral.

30. (Amended) A bacterial culture according to claim 27, characterised in that the grind or crush size is equal to or greater than P_{80} 90 μm .

Cancel claim 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.